



The Examiner

Naval Hospital, Twentynine Palms

"Serving with Pride and Professionalism"

Volume 4, No. 7

July 1996

Change of Command, retirement ceremony slated for 12 July



Captain Carl S. Chitwood

A traditional Navy Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony will take place at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, July 12, at 9 a.m. where Captain Carl S. Chitwood, MSC, USN, will be relieved by prospective Commanding Officer Captain Robert S. Kayler, MSC, USN.

Vice Admiral Harold M. Koenig, MC, USN, Surgeon General of the United States Navy, has been scheduled as the keynote speaker for this ceremony.

Captain Chitwood is retiring from the Navy after 38 years of service. Shortly after the staff of Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms moved into the current facility, Captain Chitwood became the third designated Commanding Officer on July 9, 1993, and has since presided over some important events at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's hospital.

Captain Chitwood first enlisted in the U.S.

The heart of the ceremony is the formal reading of official orders by the officer to be relieved and the relieving officer. Command passes upon the utterance by the relieving officer, "I relieve you Sir!" The officer being relieved responds, "I stand relieved."

Naval Reserve on May 20, 1957, and received an honorable discharge upon enlistment into the U.S. Navy on June 3, 1958. During his more than eight years of enlisted service, he served at the Naval Hospital, Bremerton, Washington; Hospital Corps School, San Diego; Field Medical Service School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton; U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut; the USS Orion (AS-18), the

USS Shark (SSN-591), and the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia, where he was commissioned as an Ensign in the Medical Service Corps, in 1966. After attending officer indoctrination course at the Naval School of Hospital Administration, Bethesda, Maryland, he served at Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia; USS WASP (CVC-18); Naval Dispensary, Seattle, Washington; Naval Regional Medical Center, Bremerton, Washington; Naval Hospital, Rota, Spain; Naval Environmental Health Center, Norfolk, Virginia; and Naval Regional Medical Center, Portsmouth, Virginia. Captain Chitwood served as Comptroller, Naval Medical Command, Mid-Atlantic Region, Norfolk, Virginia; Director, Ac-



Captain Robert S. Kayler

counting Division, Naval Medical Command, Washington, D. C.; and Deputy Assistant Chief, Resource Management, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, D.C.; and Officer in Charge, Naval Healthcare Support Office, Jacksonville, Florida just prior to becoming the Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Twentynine Palms, California.

Captain Chitwood graduated from the Naval School of Hospital Administration in Bethesda, Maryland, with distinction, received his BS degree from the University of Maryland in 1976, and his MS from Golden State University in 1984. He is an alumni of the Federal Healthcare Executives Institute and appointed as Visiting Senior Instructor to the Naval School of Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland.

Among his decorations, Captain Chitwood wears the Legion of Merit, Merito-

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Navy Nurse Corps Birthday

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Hart of the Matter...

A Changing Of The Guard—New CO, New CG

The Combat Center recently (18 June) changed commanding generals—from Maj. General Leslie M. Palm to Brig. General Ronald G. Richard (pronounced ri-SHARD). The hospital is rapidly approaching its change of command (12 July) from CAPT Carl Chitwood to CAPT Robert Kayler.

You will find in this issue, a brief account of the biographies of CAPTs Chitwood and Kayler. We look forward, as a command, to the continuation of the fine leadership established by CAPT Chitwood and anticipate many benefits for our patients under the leadership of CAPT Kayler.

Our purpose as a medical facility is totally linked to our support of the activities of MCAGCC. The leadership, vision, and friendship shown this hospital by General Palm leaves all of us with a warm feeling as we reflect on his two years as Commanding General. General Richard brings with him a wealth of training and experience and we look forward to supporting his mission. Here follows a condensation of General Richard's biography:

"Prior to assumption of command at MCAGCC, Brigadier General Ronald G. Richard served as the Assistant Deputy Chief

of Staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, (Reserve Affairs), Headquarters Marine Corps Washington, D. C.

In July 1991, General Richard joined Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Eastern Recruiting Region, Parris Island, as the Depot Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3. He was assigned duty as Commanding Officer of the Recruit Training Regiment on May 29, 1992. While serving in this capacity, he was selected in March 1993, for promotion to brigadier general. He was advanced to that grade on May 26, 1993, and assumed duties as the Deputy Director for Operations, National Military Command Center, J-3, Joint Staff, Organization of the JCS, Washington, D. C., on June 4, 1993.

His personal decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and Gold Star in lieu of a second award; Meritorious Service Medal; Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and Gold Star; and the Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star.

Brigadier General Richard is married to the former Dee Bertrand. They have three daughters: Rachel, Ann Marie, and Katherine."

Welcome aboard General Richard and CAPT Kayler! This hospital and the Com-



Captain S.E. Hart

bat Center have enjoyed a close, mutually supportive relationship for years and it just seems to keep getting better.

There is a greater emphasis than ever before across the DoD on readiness support of the active duty. I challenge each of you to come up with ideas and new ways we can better achieve our readiness mission. In today's world, no idea is too far out. Be imaginative! Send your ideas up your chain. I'd very much like to hear them.

Navy Nurse Corps' 88th marked at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms

Each year, the Navy Nurses here at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms celebrate Nurse's Appreciation Week and the birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps in a big way.

This year's celebration was no exception. Designated parking spaces for the hospital's Board of Directors were donated to randomly selected nurses for the week of May 6 - May 10.

Wednesday, May 6 the Nurses held a High Tea with presentation of flowers from the Medical Corps for each Nurse. Historical artifacts from the Navy Nurse Corps' bygone era were also put on display.

A first for the command occurred on May 13, when Commander Nancy Silki and Lieutenant Vicki Weaver were selected from some very stiff competition to receive the "Nursing Excellence Award." The first of what will

be an annual award to recognize Nurses who truly stand out among their peers and represent the Corps.

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As part of the Nurse Corps ceremony Ensigns Rodney Hoover and Cynthia Christian were promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade.

The **EXAMINER** Newsletter is an authorized publication of the U.S. Naval Hospital, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8250. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Navy.

Commanding Officer
CAPT. C.S. CHITWOOD, MSC
Executive Officer
CAPT. S.E. HART, MC
Public Affairs Officer/Editor
DAN BARBER

The **EXAMINER** welcomes your comments and suggestions concerning the newsletter. All comments should be forwarded to the Public Affairs Office by the 15th of each month. The Public Affairs Office telephone number is (619) 830-2362.

The **EXAMINER** is printed, under contract, on 100 percent recycled paper by Monument Printing, 56097 Twentynine Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley, CA 92284. Tel: (619) 365-5655, FAX: (619) 365-4936.

The **EXAMINER** staff would like to thank all those who participated in this edition.

Chaplain's Corner...

On the subject of values

This month I'm writing about a subject that desperately needs to be addressed in this age of value bankruptcy. In the past three to four decades, a large part of American society has put aside its values and has accepted a valueless lifestyle. Before I get deeper into this subject, it's important for you to understand what I mean by 'values.'

Defining your values is not just an academic exercise. Rather, it is a down-to-earth step toward realizing fulfillment in life. Carl Rogers said, "Clarifying your values is the essential first step toward a richer, fuller, more productive life."

To clarify your values, ask yourself:

- * "What do I believe in?"
- * "In what guiding principles can I become constructively obsessed?"
- * "What governs my life?"
- * "What do I stand for?"
- * "What puts meaning into my life?"
- * "What qualities are important for my life to be complete?"

Values are not contrived on the spur of the moment. They are ingrained in the fiber of a person's heart and soul. Joe Batten said, "Our value is the sum of our values." It is impossible to separate personal value from personally held values.

Here are some great quotes from individuals who believe that values should be ingrained in every person's heart and soul.

- * "The intergenerational poverty that troubles us so much today is predominantly a poverty of values." Dan Quayle
- * "Values determine our needs. Needs determine our goals." Earl Nightingale
- * "Know what your values are and live in a way consistent with your values." Danny Cox
- * "You will like yourself better when you have the approval of your conscience." Orison Swett Marden
- * "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything." Steve Bartkowski

- * "Keep true, never be ashamed of doing right; decide on what you think is right and stick to it." George Eliot
- * "Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got." Betty Ford

Take the time to determine exactly what values are important to you. Your personal conviction, not those of others, will determine how you live. Whatever your list of value words, make them a living testament. Transform those words into guiding principles for everything you do at work and home.

Reenlistment...



HM2 Tom Purdy takes the oath to "re-up" for a few more years in the Navy.

Measuring Quality of Life at MCAGCC

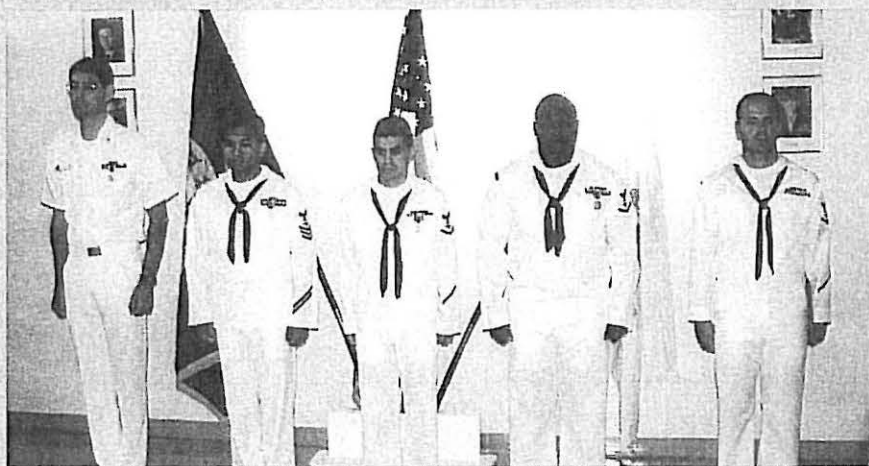
*By Dan Barber, Public Affairs Officer
Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms*

What, another survey? Yes, it seems that every time we come to work lately we have yet another Quality of Life (QOL) survey to fill out... are

these surveys necessary? The answer is yes, they are.

Results of those surveys are used to make high level command decisions that either directly or indirectly improve or effect everyone's Quality of Life here at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. *Continued on page 5.*

Awards...



Hospital staff members were honored at a special ceremony on the hospital's Quarterdeck. From left to right, HMC Steven Pearce, Navy Commendation Medal; HM1 Manuel Barcelona, Gold Star in lieu of the third Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; HM3 Ricardo Romero receives a Gold Star in lieu of second award of a Navy Achievement Medal; HM3 Charles Hall receives a Navy Achievement Medal; and HM3 Joseph Blackwell receives a Commanding General's Certificate of Commendation.

Navy Wide Advancement System – E4 to E6

By HMCS(FMF) W. M. Fernandez,
Command Career Counselor
HM1 P. A. Lipichok,
Command Career Counselor
YN3 A. Smotherman,
Asst Command Career Counselor

We just received and distributed the examination profile sheets for personnel in the March 1996 examination cycle. Some people are wondering why they were not advanced, yet others who scored lower on the test, were selected. How could that be?

The answer is knowing what factors go into the computation of the final multiple score (FMS). The following are excerpts from the Advancement Manual: "The NAVY WIDE competitive system for petty officer advancements to pay grades E4 through E6 provides credit for knowledge, performance, and seniority. While it cannot be assured that any one person will be advanced, it is guaranteed that all enlisted personnel of a particular rating and similar qualifications will have equal opportunity for advancement." Score on the test is only one of the several factors used in determining whether or not a member will be advanced. Keep in mind

that the factors below are used in computing an active duty candidate's FMS.

Performance Mark Average (PMA)

A NAVADMIN message is published before the exam cycle announcing timeframes of evaluation to be used in determining PMA. Under the new eval/fitrep system, the promotion recommendation block is the only one that counts for PMA. Early Promote equates to 4.0 under the old eval system, Must Promote 3.8, Promotable 3.6 and so on. The difference in point values of an "early promote" and "must promote" is

12 points. For example E4/E5, $4.0 \times 60 = 240 - 170 = 70$ points, compared to $3.8 \times 60 = 228 - 170 = 158$. Difference in point values: $170 - 158 = 12$ points.

We cannot explain all specific details here, because of space constraints. We encourage interested personnel to seek the wisdom and experience of their LPO and LCPO. If you need further explanation of the exam profile sheet, advancement system, computation of final multiple score, etc., contact the Command Career Counselor's Office at extension 2574. We are here to help. Move up not out. Stay Navy!

Telephone service expanding at Naval Hospital

By Dan Barber, Public Affairs Officer
Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms

Why hasn't the hospital returned my call?" The answer to that question is... there are not enough off-base 'class A' telephone lines.

Currently the Telephone Branch has 39 off-base phone lines for use by about 2,000 Class A phones at the Combat Center. The hospital alone has about 330 Class A phones or about 15 percent of the base's total off-

base capable phones. This means that when caller number 40 tries to make an off-base call and the other lines are in use the caller receives a recorded message that says, "all circuits are busy."

To solve this problem at the Combat Center a project is underway this month to increase off-base lines from 39 to 83. In addition, the hospital itself is installing 48 dedicated lines for hospital use. This should eliminate delays in the hospital staff's ability to return calls.

This telephone service improvement project should be completed in about 30 days. In the meantime, six cellular phones have been leased for use by the medical staff so the hospital's patients can expect to receive quicker responses from their providers.



HM2 Sonsire Sterrett of the hospital's Lab receives congratulations from Captain C.S. Chitwood, upon being selected for the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program. Sonsire will be attending Nursing School at Old Dominion University in Virginia.

Factor	Exam Pay grade	Computation	E4/E5 Max Points	E6 Max Points
Standard Score(SS)	All	Indicated on exam	80 (35%)	80 (30%)
Note: Score on test				
Performance Factor	E4/E5	(PMA X 60) - 170	70 (30%)	
	E6	(PMA X 60) - 148		92
(35%)				
Length of Service(LOS)	E4	(TAS - SIPG) + 15	30 (13%)	
	E6	(TAS - SIPG) + 19		34
(13%)				
Service in Pay grade	E4/E5	(2 X SIPG) + 15	30 (13%)	
(SIPG) 7 1/2 yrs max	E6	(2 X SIPG) + 19		34
(13%)				
Awards	E4/E5	Values listed in	10 (4.5%)	
	E6	Advancement Manual		12
(4.5%)				
PNA Points	E4/E5	As indicated on past	10 (4.5%)	
	E6	Profile exam info.		12
(4.5%)				
Maximum FMS			230 (100%)	264(100%)
Possible				

Navy Nurse Corps' 88th marked

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sent what nursing has become.

The week ended with the celebration of the Navy Nurse Corps' 88th Birthday held at the Desert View Conference Center, Saturday, May 11. A cake cutting ceremony took place May 13, the actual date of the birthday. To recognize the occasion, Captain Kozero, Director, Nursing Services as the senior Nurse and Ensign Garcia the junior Nurse took part in the traditional cake cutting ceremony, a standing tradition Navy wide. Major General Palm, Commanding General of MCAGCC was the guest speaker.

The previous 88 years have seen the Nurse Corps go from the "Sacred Twenty" of 1908, to more than two thousand highly skilled professional Nurses serving in a variety of specialty areas. Today's Nurses are serving with pride and distinction world wide... overseas... aboard ships... in the air... and with the Marines. Nurses have cared for combat casualties, most recently in Bosnia, Somalia, Desert Storm and in Vietnam. Not only are Nurses care providers, they are educators, mentors, administrators, directors, executive officers and commanding officers as well. Not bad for the first 88 years, stay tuned because they have only just begun.



LT Vickie Weaver, above, and CDR Nancy Silki, right, received the 1996 Nursing Excellence Awards during the Nurse Corps birthday celebration. This award will now be presented on an annual basis to the Nurses who truly stand out among their peers and represent what nursing has become.



Measuring Quality of Life at MCAGCC

Continued from page 3.

ity of Life is important enough to the Department of Defense (DoD) that funding has been set aside to implement Quality of Life projects... and these projects come in all "sizes, shapes and colors." Customer assessments or surveys are needed to identify where the money or effort should be spent to gain the most benefit.

There are a number of items here at the Combat Center that one or more of our Quality Management Boards have taken steps to study. As a result of some of those studies or surveys a number of improvements are in the initial stages of implementation or are complete. Some of those local QOL improvements at the Combat Center are:

Residential QMB

- Changes in housing rules, removing the requirement of raking sand. However, residents are still required to pick up debris in their yards.

- Removed some of the restrictions on watering of lawns and plants. Residents can

now water 7 days a week from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m., and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., during a test period that will run until July 31.

- Installation of personal telephones in the barracks.

- Extended Condor Gate access hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

- Possible centralization of BEQ management.

- Allowing the professional installation of 29" satellite dishes in housing. Prior to installation, residents must obtain a permit from housing and after the installation is complete, must have the installation inspected by housing maintenance.

Recreation QMB

- Opening of Charlies Coffee Shop/Snack Bar at C&E for students and staff.

Work Space QMB

- Identified need to improve communications.

- Identified need to improve Facilities.

- Identified need to improve Services.

- Identified need to improve Directives.

Core Values and Morals QMB

- Implementation of 1400 Coffee House (A neat place to "hang out").

- Core Values and Moral Refresher Training Unit.

Community Relations Working Group

- Increased MBTA Public Transportation to run Saturdays starting July 1, and increased service to the Palm Springs area.

- Improved civic cooperation.

Customer Service Working Group

- Identified need to provide customer service training to the Ritz Carlton Standard.

In testimony last year before the Personnel Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Quality of Life, Admiral Stanley R. Arthur, Vice Chief of Naval Operations said, "Our overall readiness, both today and in the future, depends on people. Just as we must invest in Technology, combat systems and weapons platforms, so must we invest in our people." At the DoD

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Change of Command, retirement ceremony

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rious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of Second Award, Navy Unit Commendation and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Captain Chitwood and his wife, Myrna, plan to reside in Virginia Beach, VA.

When Captain Kayler assumes command of Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, it will become his third time as a Commanding Officer. Since June of 1994 Captain Kayler served as Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Rota, Spain, where he earned his second Legion of Merit for the work he did there.

Captain Robert S. Kayler was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1941. He enlisted in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman Recruit in August 1961.

Following basic training and Hospital Corps School at San Diego, he served at the Naval Hospital, Pensacola, from 1962-1963. He attended X-Ray Technician School and served as a radiologic technologist at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia, until 1965. He was then assigned to the Military Sea Transportation Service, San Francisco. From there he attended Field Medical Service School en route to Force Logistics Support Group-Alpha, Force Logistics Command, Republic of Vietnam, where he served throughout 1968.

Returning to the Naval Hospital, Pensacola, he competed for a commission through the Medical Service Corps In service Procurement Program. Commissioned August 1969, his first assignment as an officer was head, X-Ray Training Branch, Naval Medical School, Bethesda, Maryland,

until 1971. He then attended the Naval School of Healthcare Administration, Bethesda. His next assignment was Personnel and Patient Affairs Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from 1972-1975. Lieutenant Kayler then attended the George Washington University earning the Baccalaureate in Business Administration in 1976. He served as Director for Administration, Naval School of Health Sciences, Bethesda, from 1976 to 1979.

In 1980 he attained the Master of Science in Management from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. He was then transferred to the Navy Military Personnel Command, Washington, DC, until 1982. Commander Kayler served as Executive Officer at the Naval Hospital, Millington, from 1982 to 1985 and the Naval School of Health Sciences, Bethesda, from 1985 to 1987. From there he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC, graduating in 1988. He was assigned as Ship Design Liaison Officer, Surface Medicine Division, Naval Medical Command, Washington, DC. He next served as Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Clinic, Quantico, Virginia, from 1989 to 1991 then as Director for Administration, Naval Medical Center, San Diego, from 1991 to 1994. He assumed command of the U.S. Naval Hospital, Rota, Spain, in June 1994.

Captain Kayler's decorations include the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal (one star). He is a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives and

received the 1995 Navy Regent's Sustained Executive Excellence Award.

Captain Kayler is married to the former Janice Diane Mays of Richmond, Virginia. They have a son, Tony, daughter, Jennifer, and one grandson, Patrick, who reside in California.

The Change of Command ceremony is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy Regulations, but rather is an honored product of the rich heritage of Naval traditions. When the prospective Commanding Officer reports for duty, a Change of Command ceremony is conducted to turn the activity over to the prospective Commanding Officer who accepts or assumes command, and proceeds to act as host for the remainder of the ceremony.

Custom has established this ceremony be formal and designed to strengthen that respect for authority which is vital to any military organization. This procedure was to ensure only authorized officers held command and all aboard were aware of its authenticity. The heart of the ceremony is the formal reading of official orders by the officer to be relieved and the relieving officer. Command passes upon the utterance by the relieving officer, "I relieve you Sir!" The officer being relieved responds, "I stand relieved."

The strength and supremacy of today's Navy/Marine Corps team stems, in large measure, from the observance of customs and traditions, each founded on need, each contributing its share of stability, combat effectiveness, and good order and discipline.

Good Conduct...



HM2 Reynaldo Locquiao of the hospital Lab receives his second Good Conduct Medal.

Measuring Quality of Life at MCAGCC

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level the projects or issues are big ones... pay, housing, medical care, individual and family support programs and personnel tempo.

Here at the Combat Center there are many more "grass roots" programs, issues or regulations that effect Quality of Life which can be changed, improved or implemented at our level... and anyone regardless of rank can participate in those efforts by taking the time to fill out the various surveys, or by serving on a Quality Management Board, Working Group or Process Action Team. In addition, if anyone has an idea for a Quality of Life

improvement at the Combat Center, recommendation for a change in a process or a regulation, write it up, in your own words, and submit it to the appropriate QMB... if in doubt where to go, call Johnetta Meyers at ext. 2351 or Dan Barber at ext. 2362. Also if you would like to volunteer in working toward improving our Quality of Life, call Johnetta or Dan... your individual efforts could pay big dividends to everyone.

Happy Birthday!
Hospital Corps

Letters...

Ever grateful thank you

Dear Captain Chitwood,

If you would please pass along an ever grateful thank you to HN Griffeth and HN Kirkpatrick.

These two ladies assisted me in the parking lot of the Child Development Center here aboard MCAGCC on Thursday, Apr. 25, at approximately 6:30 a.m.

I had a head wound from a fall earlier that morning, and planned to drive to Day Care to drop off my child, and then wanted to proceed to the ER for treatment. I "waffled" as I tried to exit my car in the Day Care parking lot. HN Griffeth assisted my son and I into the Day Care facility. Both HN Kirkpatrick and HN Griffeth helped to calm and console me as well as get help to me. I think I thanked both ladies verbally at the time of the incident, however I am not sure. Would you please relay my sincere thanks to them for helping someone in need. I surely was in need and am thankful that such caring individuals were alert and willing to help me.

*Thank you
Sue Gagne*

Impressed with leadership

Dear Captain Chitwood,

I have never met you, but I am so impressed with your leadership as the Commanding Officer of the Hospital, that I feel obligated to pass on my compliments.

For the past two years my wife and myself have availed ourselves of your fine facility while we winter in Desert Hot Springs. I spent twenty years in war and peace with

this old Marine Corps, and as a result ended up in Naval Hospitals all over the world for treatment of wounds and surgeries. Your facility is head and shoulders above any hospital I have ever observed. You run a tight and happy ship.

I am giving a speech to the Sergeants School on April 30, before we depart for our Oregon home. My subject is Combat Leadership. It is my intent to mention the fine peacetime leadership you display.

Personnel under your command, who have gone above and beyond the line of duty in regards to my health care are LT Knott, Captain Ragan, LCDR Longnecker, LT Coffee, LT Blaine, and HM3 Juan Selles. Fact is, all personnel from civilians to Naval simply knock themselves out to please and assist us. They do this as a result of your leadership.

Keep up the good work.

*With heartfelt thanks,
Everett H. Shults
MSgt, USMC, Ret.*

Wonderful experience

Dear Captain Chitwood,

We recently had the wonderful experience of delivering our first child at Naval Hospital 29 Palms and I wanted to write and let you know of the wonderful care we received. We could not have asked for more loving and

dedicated care. Special thanks to all the staff in the Family Practice Clinic from the front desk personnel, to the Corpsmen and Nurses, they always treated us with respect and concern. Likewise, we feel we received the best care possible from the staff on labor and delivery, the nursery, and the MIW. Special thanks to Mrs. Shipley, HN Cavanaugh, HN Santos, LT Weaver, LT John and both LVNs Dopp, for their special attention. Lastly, we greatly appreciated the care of Captain Ragan from beginning to end. It was a joy to have our family practice doctor care for us the entire pregnancy.

I have only listed the names of a few individuals, because to list every person that touched our lives in this miracle would take up to many pages. They should all know they have a special place in our heart. As staff members and first time parents, we were not completely sure what to expect. Now in retrospect, we realize what a blessing it was to deliver our first child at this facility. The outpouring of love and affection from all the staff members made us feel like we had our own family there with us through the entire process. Thanks to each and every one of you.

*With love,
Cary, Lillian, and Luke
Ostergaard*

Letter policy

Letters will be published on a first come, first served basis. They should be typewritten, with the writer's full name. Letters should be brief to allow maximum participation by others. Letter writers should refrain from making personal attacks. Letters addressing specific problems pertaining to patient care can also be addressed to the Patient Contact Representative or other appropriate hospital staff member for action. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month for the following month's issue.



The Captain's Cup award went to the Ancillary Services Directorate. Captain Chitwood presented the award to team captain HMC Michael Duncan as CDR William Harris and HMCM Howard look on.

Children of hospital staff members enjoyed the picnic which marked the Hospital Corps Birthday celebrations.



Naval Hospital Hard Chargers...



From left to right, LTs Laura Roenker, Sandra Spano, and Christina Beman receive Letters of Commendation upon their transfer from the hospital.



HM3 Deborah Griffeth of Education and Training receives a Good Conduct Medal.



HM3 Brenda Sandlin of Education and Training receives a Good Conduct Medal.



LTJG Robin Moeller of the Nursing Services Department receives a Letter of Commendation.



HN Joseph Heinzman of Emergency Medicine Department receives a Navy Achievement Medal.



HM3 Miranda Kelly of Physical Therapy receives a Good Conduct Medal.



BM1 Raymond Ross, USN, (Ret.) of Desert Hot Springs, left, presents Captain C.S. Chitwood, Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, center, and HMCM Clifton Howard, the hospital Command Master Chief, with a special "knot board" depicting various knots used in naval service.



HM1 Ricardo Deluna receives his fifth Good Conduct Award.



HN Logan Fisher of Emergency Medicine Department receives a CG Certificate of Commendation.